



## Golden Retriever Club of Illinois

This is a new version of our online newsletter. It is mobile compatible. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for added content or improvements. Thank you for your patience as the Editor gets familiar with the new format!

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## Golden Moments Newsletter

### President's Letter

Hello GRCI Members!

My father recently passed away. So please bear with me as I try and weave a story to show how I have become my father's son.

They say opposites attract. This couldn't be truer than with my parents. Paired together at school dances by fraternity brothers and cousins when my mother was in town visiting. It was loathing at first date. In spite of the loathing, these forced dates continued during college, not often, but the loathing was there. After college, dad was in Officer Training School at Great Lakes. It was Thanksgiving and he was far from his home in St Louis. He could only leave the base within a certain distance to be with a relative. Milwaukee was close enough to the base to qualify. My father got himself invited to my mother's house for Thanksgiving. According to my uncle, mom was not very happy about this. My grandmother was said to have told mom, "If she didn't want to be with him at the table she could eat somewhere else". He did the same thing at Christmas. They were married 3 months later. Their marriage was 27 days shy of 70 years when he passed.



My father never had a dog growing up. I don't think my grandmother would have allowed him a pet rock. While my mother's family always had a dog. She and my uncle even shared a dog when they were in college at Wisconsin. The stories told are that Butch could find either of them at any class on any day. Butch was not allowed in the fraternity dining room. So he would lie across the threshold so all would have to step over him and tell him he was a good boy. On the other hand, when the housemothers would have a tea, Butch would greet them at the front door growling lovingly at them.

At some point a golden retriever was brought into the home of 4 young boys to be loved and adored. My father took this new responsibility seriously. He enrolled in dog training classes at the park district. And so it began. Every time a new dog was brought into the house, off to basic training it went. At some point I began to tag along. Somehow getting into some very small "fun" obedience shows.

I was two when Chip (Indian Knoll's Chipperoo) came into the house. I have no memories of him but I have a few photos of him now. He was of standard height and very slender. He has dark red hair with a wavy streak down his back. The photos show he was just full of life. Chip learned to sleep with one eye open when I was around. He always became my pillow on the floor. I would read to him a story no one

else could understand curled up in his belly. Chip would try and get up and I would implore him to stay because “the best part was almost here”.

For my fifth birthday I received a scraggly puppy named Nicky. There were now 5 children in a small home. A neighbor’s daughter saw the puppy and asked my father if she could take our puppy for a walk. Her parents wouldn’t allow her to have a dog she said, but she really liked them. We moved a year later. Jane Coen and I met 18 years later while I was training my first golden as an adult. We quickly put together the pieces that she was that little girl walking my dog. I guess her parents finally relented.

My father proudly came to my first Obedience Trial where my Velvet almost fell over as she kept nodding off during the Long Sit. He let me never forget it. He attended many shows where my dogs fared better and shared the excitement of their accomplishments. He loved coming over and giving training commands which the dogs loved doing for him. He never could understand how they shed so much, especially on his black pants.

My father was an engineer. He had a brilliant mind, and loved to share his knowledge. He gave back to the community he lived in for the last 63 years. As an Eagle Scout, he wanted his boys to enjoy the benefits of scouting that he had enjoyed. He started a Cub Scout Pack and served as its leader long after we all had gone through. He was on the Library Board and served as he could for the temples he belonged to. If my mom was involved with a group, my dad was there as well. In addition to a full time job, he taught night school electrical engineering classes at IIT on and off for over forty years. In retirement he joined their staff, teaching full time. I questioned why would he give up his beloved naps in retirement. He said that was what the train ride was for. He only overslept two or three times coming home.

I just uncovered a previously unseen photograph. My father with Chip in the heel position. Leash folded properly in his hands. They are both beaming at the camera. Showing all the pride and love between them. There is a man and his dog, about to work together to create magic or learn not to trip over each other.

I thank my father for the lessons given and the lessons learned. I thank my father for all the love he bestowed on my mother, my five siblings, and me.

I look forward to see many of you on Zoom for our general meetings.

Sincerely,

Hal Axelrod  
President  
GRCI



## Calendar of Events

As things start to get back to the new normal, we have events that are planned and some that we hope to be able to offer to our members, and are still in TBD mode. As we are all now accustomed



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to, things change each day, so stay tuned, and we will do our best to communicate updates as we get them.

Membership Renewal forms due January 1 (accepted thru 1/15)

January Board Meeting January 11

Agility Trial January 23-24

Agility Trial February 13-14

February Membership Meeting February 8

March Board Meeting March 8

- Nominating Committee Named

April Membership Meeting April 12

- Board Slate Announced

May Hunt Test May 1-2

May Board Meeting May 10

June Membership Meeting June 14

June Specialty June 19-20

June Obedience and Rally Trial June 19-20

- Candidates Elected

June Agility Trial June 25-27

July Board Meeting July 12

July Agility Trial July 23-25

August Annual Meeting & Picnic August 8

- New Board Introduced
- Awards Presented
- New Year begins

September Agility Trial September 4-5

September Board Meeting September 13

Conformation Assessment (CCA) TBD

Health Clinic Sept/October

Scent Work Trial TBD

Membership Meeting October 11

November Board Meeting November 8

December Membership Meeting/Holiday Party December 6

## Thank you for answering the call to volunteer!

Thank you to Sally Banka and Jennifer Rudolph for volunteering to co-chair the Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA). Sally and Jennifer are working on a location and date.

This is a popular event for our members and local area Golden owners. It was cancelled last year due to Covid-19, so we are excited about the possibility to host another.

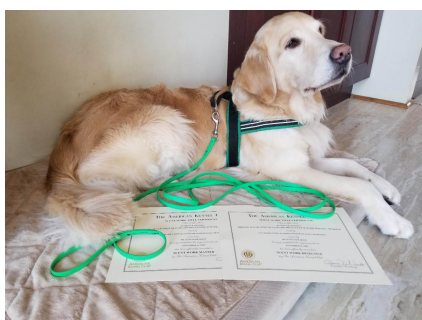
Thank you, Sally and Jenn!



## Making Golden History! Jayda Dahlquist - first Golden Retriever AKC Scent Work Detective Dog

**Jayda ( Mirasol Sugartwist of Fate SWD, SWM, TDX, CDX. NAJ, CCA)** is the first Golden, in America, to achieve AKC's highest scent work title!

Jayda and I have had quite a journey together! Seven years ago I drove from Chicago to New Hampshire to pick up my lovely puppy. Being newly retired, I planned for the many adventures ahead of us. We cross-trained in agility, obedience, hunt, and tracking, only to get sidelined when she was two. After a rabies vaccination she had difficulty swallowing and developed



mega-esophagus. She lost weight and had 2 bouts of aspirational pneumonia. We almost lost her.. Finally, we got test results determining that she had an autoimmune disease.. myasthenia gravis. Fortunately, drugs are available to protect the nerve cells that were being damaged by this condition. Very slowly she got better. we had many hours of hand feeding her gruel while she sat upright in our constructed Bailey chair.. We developed quite a bond.

The pills gradually stabilized her and she bounced back. Now for the good stuff...We played positive games & got to participate in different events; however scenting proved to be her all time favorite! We attended classes but then found we could practice at all sorts of interesting locations: parks, dog friendly stores, anywhere! She was in her glory doing scavenger hunts with high value treats....lets go!!!! When my son came to visit, he could think up the darnedest places to plant hides!..and she just tried harder for those elusive ones .For her third birthday we got her a baby sister. Timer is great company for Jayda and also loves the scenting game; however Jayda informs us that she is the search queen and gets dibs on the first rounds of hides.

She learned to use her nose while tracking, hunting birds, and choosing utility articles. She trusts that her nose will lead her to the holy grail-- hot dog rewards! I have it pretty easy just staying back keeping quiet and having the treats ready in hand. Jayda doesn't mind demonstrating her retrieving instincts; when I am not speedy in rewarding her finds, she loves to snatch the hide and proudly deliver it to me. Oops, sorry judge!

Jayda, like many Goldens, uses her paw to indicate she has nailed the hide. She is confident and does not get spooked by other dogs, new people, or strange locations so, fortunately, she doesn't tend to get distracted and can get right down to business. She was the only dog to complete a local club's first sniff and go by finding all 4 AKC odors, among 40 distracting containers, in 1.04 minutes. On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. we were excited to complete our final and 10<sup>th</sup> Detective leg, as well as the SWM master title. Then, we came back, the next day, for a bonus 11<sup>th</sup>. Detective leg!

Our scent trials have often been learning experiences as well as super-satisfying events. Judges have had kind comments: "It's been a pleasure to watch your team work," or... "she was the most impressive dog I've seen all day," or "you both worked to perfection." It's been quite a thrill for me to participate, with my very Good Girl, in this special episode of our lives. Now we get to look forward to finding available NACSW Elite trials!!

Jayda has been enrolled in the Morris 3,000 Golden lifetime longitudinal study. Each year participants fill out pages of data tracking each Hero's: habits, living conditions, food, and activities. Jayda gives blood samples, hair, nail clippings, urine, and fecal samples all with the goal of determining cancer causing factors. Shedding light on cancer prevention may be the very biggest win, for all of our Golden pups.

## Wags and Brags





Jane Coen reports that at Greater DeKalb Kennel Club's January 22 Rally Trials, Kizzie earned her seventh and eighth Rally Master legs with scores of 100, taking first place in the Rally Master class at both trials. Trevor earned his first and second Rally Excellent legs with scores of 97 and 100, taking first place in the Rally Excellent class at the second trial. Stella earned her first and second Rally Advance legs with scores of 100, taking first place in the Rally Advance class at both trials.



Jane Coen reports that Stella earned her first two CDX legs at Car-Dun-Al's February 6-7 Obedience Trials with scores of 197 1/2 and 196 1/2 for first and second place, respectively. Trevor earned his first CDX leg at the February 6 trial with a score of 195 for fourth place.

**Think Spring! Or, as we Golden Owners call it, the Season of Mud!**



### **Note from the Editor**

Hello! Sorry for the delay in this edition! As you read, Hal had a great loss in his family in February, and my husband and I, and our fur babies are moving this week from Illinois to Wisconsin, so it's been a stressful and hectic time.

I appreciate your patience, and welcome your articles and input for an informative newsletter.



## 2020-2021 GRCI Board of Directors



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